

MINUTES
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF YORK

Adjourned Meeting
March 14, 2006

6:00 p.m.

Meeting Convened. An Adjourned Meeting of the York County Board of Supervisors was called to order at 6:02 p.m., Tuesday, March 14, 2006, in the East Room, York Hall, by Chairman Walter C. Zaremba.

Attendance. The following members of the Board of Supervisors were present: Walter C. Zaremba, Kenneth L. Bowman, James S. Burgett, and Thomas G. Shepperd, Jr.

Sheila S. Noll arrived at 6:10 p.m.

Also in attendance were James O. McReynolds, County Administrator; J. Mark Carter, Assistant County Administrator; and James E. Barnett, County Attorney.

WORK SESSION

PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2007 BUDGET

Mr. McReynolds noted that the main purpose of this evening's session was to discuss contributions to various organizations. The staff has prepared a spread sheet of information regarding the recommended contributions and is prepared to answer questions. Mr. McReynolds stated that if possible he would like consensus from the Board this evening as to the amount to include in the proposed budget to fund these contributions.

At this time the Board reviewed the listed recommendations for agency contributions, and discussion followed regarding the special \$400,000 special grant request for the Williamsburg Area Destination Marketing Committee (WADMC), and the proposed funding for tourism efforts.

Mr. Shepperd stated he felt the Board needs to consider what it is doing with the taxpayers dollars. He stated the organizations listed are great, but he asked if the Board was providing funding to these support mechanisms to be a part of the government organization, or was it providing funds for the common good. Mr. Shepperd also noted there is a constant increase in funding levels of the agencies that have already gotten in the door, stating there is a constant creep upwards; and he provided examples such as the Chamber of Commerce and the Williamsburg Regional Library. He stated he feels the Board needs to set an amount and not go over it so that the creep of dollars does not get bigger and bigger.

Chairman Zaremba noted that Mr. Shepperd also needed to consider the CPI and cost of living which goes up on an annual basis and affects each of these organizations.

Mr. Shepperd responded that these are organizations that are not a part of York County's government. He stated they extend beyond the County, and are charities to which the Board contributes. He asked the Board to consider how much it can afford to give away.

Chairman Zaremba indicated some of the line items are directly attributable to supporting the citizens of the County, such as the Williamsburg Regional Library. The County would have to establish a branch in the northern end of the County if the Board did not contribute to it. Mr. Zaremba indicated he agreed with Mr. Shepperd on some of them.

Mr. Bowman indicated he asks himself if these agencies provide a service, directly or indirectly, to the citizens of the County. The Chamber and Library contributions are the largest items on the list, and he asked what they are doing for the citizens of the County or for the common

good of the community as a whole. He stated he feels the current arrangement with the Regional Library is the best thing for the County at the present time. He suggested requiring York County citizens to have a library card in order to track the number of citizens who actually use the library. He stated he feels the Board needs to be more creative in looking at these large numbers. Mr. Bowman stated the only issue he has with the contribution recommendations is the Lackey Free Clinic, and he stated he would like to see them receive a contribution of \$5,000 because of the service it provides to the community.

Mrs. Noll expressed her agreement with Mr. Bowman on the Lackey Free Clinic and other contributions, stating the citizens benefit directly or indirectly from the Board's contributions, and everyone is looking for quality of life and the greater common good. She stated these organizations could not do what they do if they did not receive some help from the local jurisdictions. The County could not provide comparable library service for the amount of money provided to the Williamsburg Regional Library. Mrs. Noll noted she was against requiring citizens to pay for library cards because the library should be free. She stated she feels all the organizations listed are good ones, and overall all citizens benefit.

Mr. Burgett stated the Board has to keep in mind the amount of money that tourism creates in the County budget, noting the County's contribution of \$355,000 could get \$12 million in return. He stated he agrees that the agencies need to be as efficient as they can possibly be, but stated he would not want to back off supporting the tourism-related agencies. Mr. Burgett then asked if the Lackey Free Clinic was a tax exempt organization.

Mr. McReynolds indicated it was tax exempt.

Mr. Burgett stated even though the clinic is tax exempt, he feels the amount requested is reasonable and shows the Board's support.

Mrs. Noll stated she would like for \$5,000 to go to the Virginia Living Museum because of its services to the County's school children. She noted it also affects tourism in that the more museums there are, the longer the tourists stay in the area.

Chairman Zaremba stated that at some point the Board has to come up with a process or system to evaluate these requests for contributions more analytically and objectively. No one doubts the value of these organizations, and the Board could argue that they deserve or do not deserve what is requested. He spoke of the importance of the funding going to tourism agencies and knowing how much the County receives for each dollar spent. He stated there is an argument to support the request for the special \$400,000, but a model or plan must be developed for dealing with these types of requests. He asked Mr. McReynolds to provide the Board with some recommendations. Mr. Zaremba then stated he fully supports the contribution for the Lackey Free Clinic, noting he feels \$5,000 is a small amount for a service that is very important to a lot of people.

Mr. McReynolds explained that in formulating each recommendation, the staff looks at the agency's service to county citizens, and a good deal of staff effort is expending in doing that.

Discussion followed on evaluating the requests for contributions.

At this time the Board continued its review of the requests for contributions, and specific discussion took place concerning the requests for funding from the Zweibrücken Exchange Program, and the York County Historical Museum, and funding to the NASA Langley Community Support program and others to help save the military bases in the area.

Mr. Shepperd suggested the Board should put a cap on the amount it contributes at \$1 million. He agreed that the Board needed to do its part to keep the military bases in the region, but it has to keep the growth of this amount of money under control. He then proposed the following reductions to the proposed FY07 budget:

Greater Williamsburg Chamber & Tourism Alliance	\$30,000
Williamsburg Regional Library	\$30,000

Child Development Resources (CDR)	\$10,000
Housing Partnership	\$ 5,000
Peninsula Reads	\$ 2,000
Hospice	\$ 2,000
York County Arts Commission	\$ 5,000
Hampton Roads Military & Federal Facility Alliance	\$19,000
Newport News-Williamsburg Airport	\$ 2,000
York County Historical Committee	\$ 1,000
York County Historical Museum	\$ 5,000
Virginia Air and Space Museum	\$20,000

Chairman Zaremba noted that Mr. Shepperd's suggested reductions were as arbitrary as any proposed solution to the problem. He then suggested another way to get contributions down to \$1 million would be to do it on a per capita basis, which is another arbitrary way of doing it. He asked if any of the other Board members supported Mr. Shepperd's proposal.

Mr. McReynolds noted that in regard to CDR and other County programs for early childhood development, there is a lot of evidence to support that dollars spent there are highly leveraged. He suggested it would be better if that amount could be taken out of other items that provide less service.

Mr. Burgett expressed his appreciation for Mr. Shepperd's efforts. He noted the Board has cut enough for a 12-cent reduction, and the actual growth in constant dollars is \$37 less than the years before. He stated there was not enough in this line item to cut. He indicated he understood how Mr. Shepperd came up with his figures, but he felt the Board needs to look for some other people who participate in this budget, such as the School Division, to see if they have any savings. Mr. Burgett stated the Board can ask them to look in the spirit of participation because that is where the big money is.

Mr. Bowman stated that coming into this meeting he was prepared to recommend taking the top two requests off the list and scrutinize them later. He suggested that staff provide more justification and information on how they arrived at these figures.

Mrs. Noll stated she feels the staff spends a great deal of time developing these recommendations, and she trusts them because the Board members do not have the time to evaluate all of them. She stated these contributions are small amounts in terms of the overall budget, and the Board needs to find some larger areas to look at for further reductions. Mrs. Noll expressed her support of the recommendations as provided by staff.

Chairman Zaremba asked Mr. McReynolds to go back to department heads and the School Division between now and the public hearing on March 23rd and see if there are any further reductions in their respective current budgets to provide a further reduction to the proposed tax rate.

Meeting Adjourned. At 7:31 p.m. Chairman Zaremba declared the meeting adjourned sine die.

James O. McReynolds, Clerk
York County Board of Supervisors

Walter C. Zaremba, Chairman
York County Board of Supervisors